

Proposed Focus Areas of the WorkFirst Reexamination Workgroup

(as of August 2, 2005)

For discussion on July 25, 2005

Issue	
Revenue opportunities:	
1.	Federal bonuses: What can we do to increase the probability that the state receives bonus awards?
2.	Child support enforcement: Are there child support policies or process changes that could increase the amount of support available?
3.	Food Stamp E&T: Is there an opportunity to better leverage the food stamp employment and training program?
4.	Funding sources: Can we better align the funding sources for training and employment in this state? Are we maximizing WIA, Pell, Wagner-Peyser funds?
Expenditure opportunities:	
5.	Sanctions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What should the consequences be for non-participation? Are five-year time limits effective toward moving parents toward participation?
6.	Eligibility: Who do we serve, TANF parents or low-income? What proportion of spending is on TANF parents and what proportion is on low-income or post-TANF? What are the potential impacts of adjusting eligibility levels? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include diversion (added 7/25/05) Child care eligibility and co-pays (added 7/25/05)
7.	Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the staffing costs charged to TANF? What are the staffing levels by service or agency? (Include staffing profiles) Are there areas of duplication or opportunities to better coordinate services? Are there policy changes that could reduce staffing requirements without altering outcomes? Should social services staff be located in TANF offices? What is case management? Are there improvements that would result in cost savings?

For discussion on August 4, 2005

Issue	
8.	Child-only cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What should be the nature of support for children living with non-needy caregivers? Should these cases be case managed?
9.	Returns: What do we know about people who return to the program and what opportunities do we have to reduce the number of people returning to the program?
10.	Contracted services: Which services are contracted and what do we know about the effectiveness of contracted services?
11.	Assessment and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How could assessment be improved to match up services to individual needs? Do we offer the best mix of services available to meet needs identified by the assessment? Should we limit types of services to certain populations? What other options are there for expanded training or other services?
12.	Governance and Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the current governance structure around the TANF box? What governance options are there regarding the TANF box? How do we measure success for these priority goals? How do we measure whether our activities and services are contributing to those?

	Issue
13.	Local Area Planning: What is the role and contribution of local area planning?
14.	Participation: Would reduced hours of participation result in significant savings for families with children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 12 months • Under 6 years
15.	Tribal issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the areas of discretion and state options around tribal TANF? • What is the cost breakdown (history & projection) for Tribal TANF and tribal contracts? • What would be considered "fair and equitable?"

Also for discussion August 4 (added 7/25/05 and 7/29/05)

16.	Education and training for low-income families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What education and training opportunities for low-income families are paid for with TANF funds? • What are the demographics of those families? • What is the completion rate for college programs?
17.	Support services for low-income families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support services for low-income families are paid for with TANF funds?
18.	Economy: How could an improved economy decrease the caseload
19.	Job search: What improvements can be made to get more parents to job search?
20.	Managing office performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which offices are performing well? Are there gains to be made from their best practices?
21.	Community Jobs: What are the placement levels, costs? Are there economies to capitalize on?
22.	High Performance Bonuses: Would financial incentives to offices or Local Planning Areas yield better outcomes?
23.	Earned Income Tax Credit outreach: Would investing in EITC outreach to increase income to low- and moderate-income workers?